

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /044 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 842

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2186

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, ZA

SUBJECT: TAW

1. PRIME MINISTER CHONA AGREED MEET WITH TOM WOOD SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, FOLLOWING HALF HOUR CONVERSATION I HAD WITH HIM OCTOBER 22 AND AFTER WOOD HAD GIVEN ASSURANCES AT CHONA'S REQUEST THAT NO RPT NO "ARROGANCE OR OFFENSE" INTENDED IN ANY OF WOOD'S PRIOR RELATIONS WITH GRZ. THESE ASSURANCES CONVEYED BY ME TO PM IN TELECON AND ACCEPTABLE TO HIM.

2. BOTH CHONA AND WOOD SAY THEY DESIRE SETTLEMENT AND WISH AVOID ARBITRATION. THESE STATEMENTS ALSO PASSED BY ME TO EACH OF PRINCIPALS AT THEIR REQUEST. CHONA REJECTED WOOD'S PROPOSAL TO BASE NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD SETTLEMENT ON REINSTATEMENT OF CONTRACT. NOT COMPLETELY CLEAR FROM MY CONVERSATION WITH PM HOW GRZ PROPOSES SETTLING. GRZ STILL INTERESTED IN PURCHASE 62 TRUCKS HERE AND 100 GM'S IN US. CHONA MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF WOOD "STAYING IN BUSINESS IN ZAMBIA," HINTING THERE MIGHT BE AN OFFER OF SOME SORT OF MANAGEMENT CONTRACT CONVEYING GRZ TRUCKING FLEET. WOOD EARLIER TOLD US HE KNEW PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAD SUGGESTED 51 - 49 PERCENT PARTNERSHIP DEAL, BUT CHONA TURNED THAT DOWN IN EARLY STAGES HIS INVOLVEMENT.

3. WOOD NOT RPT NOT INSISTENT ON REINSTATEMENT CONTRACT.

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HE HAD SUGGESTED IT ONLY AS ONE POSSIBLE WAY OUT FOR GRZ.

HE GOES INTO MEETING PREPARED TO LISTEN TO WHATEVER CHONA HAS TO OFFER. HE RECOGNIZES AGREEMENT NECESSARY TO MAINTAINING AND EXPANDING TAW'S OPERATIONS IN AFRICA.

4. PM AGAIN PRESSED ME ON USE OF AID PROGRAM LOAN AND WHY REPLY DELAYED. I SAID DEFINITIVE WORD STILL AWAITED FROM WASHINGTON; I PERSONALLY SAW NO LEGAL IMPEDIMENTS TO USE (BUT WAS NOT A LAWYER); AND WAS SURE ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT WITH PM DURING HIS VISIT TO ZAMBIA. PM LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING ASSISTANT SECRETARY DURING HIS OCTOBER 23 - 26 VISIT. REQUEST WASHINGTON'S LATEST VIEWS BY IMMEDIATE CABLE.

5. POUCHING MEMCON.
WILKOWSKI

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Message Attributes

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